

Texas Job Training Partnership Act goals, contracts

HB 1219 by A. Hill/Barrientos

- DIGEST:** HB 1219 would have revised the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Local job training contractors would have been given preference for training contracts. The State Job Training Coordinating Council would have been required to develop conflict-of interest guidelines for private industry councils (PICs), the JTPA program goals would have been changed to specifically include workers who have been laid off from full-time employment as a group targeted for assistance and the Texas Department of Commerce would have been authorized to contract with public community and junior colleges to provide youth programs for drop-outs.
- GOVERNOR'S REASON FOR VETO:** "The language in this bill appears to be in fatal conflict with the Federal Job Training Partnership Act, which requires a competitive bid process in procurement and selection of service providers. The net result of this bill becoming law would be the loss of job training funds for the State of Texas."
- RESPONSE:** Rep. Anita Hill, author of HB 1219, said an amendment to the bill that would have given preference to local contractors might have created legal problems with the U.S. Department of Labor, in the opinion of the Job Training Coordinating Council and the Commerce Department. "I don't think the governor had a problem with the rest of the bill. I had no problem with her decision to veto the bill. I understand totally," said Rep. Hill. She said the Legislature probably will address this issue again.
- NOTES:** HB 1219 was analyzed in the April 8 *Daily Floor Report*.